

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 128603

EXDIS, FOR HOROWITZ FROM MAYNES

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLAB, ILO

SUBJECT: 63RD ILC - RECORDING VOTES ON KEY ISSUES

REF: (A) STATE 126832; (B) STATE 123378

1. IN AMPLIFICATION OF QUERY LAST SENTENCE REF A, WE
CONSIDER IT ESSENTIAL THAT INTENSE EFFORT IN CAPITALS
ON WHICH YOU, POSTS, AND OTHERS HAVE EXPENDED SO MUCH
SKILL AND TIME CULMINATE IN CAREFUL COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY
RECORD OF VOTES ON KEY ISSUES AT ILC. CREDIBILITY WITH
POSTS AND GOVERNMENTS OF SIMILAR EFFORTS IN FUTURE
(WHICH ARE LIKELY ON ISSUES SUCH AS HUMAN RIGHTS) CAN
BE HEAVILY AFFECTED BY WHETHER THIS INFORMATION IS
AVAILABLE. IN FACT, SEVERAL POSTS HAVE ALREADY PUT US
ON NOTICE THAT THEY WILL NEED TO KNOW HOW THEIR COUNTRIES
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VOTED.

2. QUESTION RAISES SPECIAL DIFFICULTY BECAUSE WE
RECOGNIZE THAT YOU MAY HAVE TO MAKE LAST-MINUTE
JUDGEMENT WHETHER RECORDED VOTES IN CLOSE BALLOTINGS
ON SOME ISSUES MIGHT LOSE US THE VOTES OF COUNTRIES
WHO WOULD OTHERWISE SUPPORT US, BUT COULD NOT STAND

EXPOSURE ON THE RECORD. AT THE SAME TIME, THE 19TH

UNESCO GENERAL CONFERENCE IN NAIROBI SHOWED THE EXTREME DIFFICULTY OF RECORDING SHOW-OF-HAND VOTES UNLESS THIS IS CAREFULLY PLANNED AND ORGANIZED WELL IN ADVANCE.

3. IN ORDER TO AVOID HAVING THIS DIFFICULTY LIMIT YOUR FREEDOM OF DECISION, YOU SHOULD HAVE THE DELEGATION MAKE CONTINGENCY PLANS NOW FOR COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY RECORDING OF SHOW-OF-HAND VOTES. VERY OCCASIONALLY, A SECRETARIAT OFFICIAL WHO WILL BE ON THE DAIS CAN BE PERSUADED TO MAKE AN INFORMAL COUNT. IF THIS PROVES IMPOSSIBLE, AS IS PROBABLE, USUALLY THE ONLY PRACTICAL METHOD IS TO SEAT USDEL MEMBERS (AND MISSION OFFICIALS IF THEY CAN GET INTO THE MEETING) AT POINTS AROUND THE HALL FROM WHICH THEY CAN OBSERVE PRE-ASSIGNED GROUPS OF DELEGATIONS. GIVEN THE FREQUENT NECESSITY FOR DOING THIS DISCREETLY, THIS MANUEVER MUST BE CAREFULLY PLANNED WITH A REVIEW OF THE LAYOUT OF THE ROOM, AND A DRY RUN IF POSSIBLE.

4. WE REALIZE THAT THIS WILL FURTHER BURDEN AN ALREADY OVER-WORKED DELEGATION. WITHOUT THIS INFORMATION, HOWEVER, WE CANNOT CREDIBLY FOLLOW UP THE STRENUOUS EFFORTS OF THE LAST TWO YEARS, NOR EXPECT SIMILAR CAMPAIGNS ON OTHER ISSUES TO BE AS EFFECTIVELY CONDUCTED.

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